

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185022
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185022

STADIS
FOR CHIEF OF MISSION FROM ACTING ASST SECRETARY BUSHNELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AODE, AFSP, APER

SUBJECT: MODE STAFF REDUCTIONS

1. AS BUREAU PREPARES, WITHIN MODE GUIDELINES, TO MAKE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT ELIMINATING AMERICAN AND LOCAL POSITIONS FROM VARIOUS AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT CEILINGS THROUGHOUT ARA, WE WISH TO CONSULT WITH YOU ONCE MORE TO OBTAIN YOUR THOUGHTS AND CONCURRENCES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MODE REQUESTS SENT TO YOU IN RECENT MONTHS, YOU IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND LOCAL POSITIONS WHICH COULD BE ELIMINATED WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE CONDUCT OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH CHILE. AS YOU KNOW, AT HIS MARCH 13 CABINET MEETING, PRESIDENT CARTER REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO MAKE A SELECTIVE REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL
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PAGE 02 STATE 185022

SERVING UNDER DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION ABROAD. ACCORDINGLY, LETTERS WERE SENT TO THE CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES SUMMARIZING THE STAFF REDUCTIONS YOU RECOMMENDED AND REQUESTING THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT THESE REDUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1978. THE PROPOSED STAFF REDUCTIONS IN QUESTION, AND THE VARIOUS RESPONSES TO THEM SO FAR ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

PROPOSED REDUCTIONS

U.S.

ICA 4 (CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, DIRECTORS OF
BNC CONCEPCION AND VALPARAISO AND ICA
ADMIN OFFICER)
AGRICULTURE 1 (AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE)

AGENCY RESPONSES

ICA

ICA CONCURS IN THE ELIMINATION OF ONE CULTURAL AFFAIRS
OFFICER POSITION. ICA STATES THAT YOU DO NOT FAVOR THE
REDUCTION OF THE OTHER THREE POSITIONS. THEY STATE THAT
THE DIRECTOR OF THE BINATIONAL CENTERS AT CONCEPCION AND
VALPARAISO ARE "IMPORTANT TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OB-
JECTIVES IN CHILE". WITH RESPECT TO THE ICA ADMINISTRA-
TIVE OFFICER, ICA STATES THAT FOR A PROGRAM OF SLIGHTLY
OVER 1 MILLION DOLLARS, THE POSITION IS IMPORTANT TO
THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM AND ICA DOES
NOT CONCUR IN ITS ELIMINATION.

AGRICULTURE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 185022

FAS STATES THAT STATE E/C OFFICERS ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO HAN-
DLE THE TECHNICAL INTRICACIES OF AGRICULTURAL REPORTING.
MOREOVER, THEY STATE THAT THE E/C OFFICERS DO NOT USUALLY
APPLY THEMSELVES TO SPECIALIZED USDA NEEDS OR HANDLING
VISITING TRADESPEOPLE. THEY ALSO NOTE THAT THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE CHILEAN AGRICULTURAL MARKET AND THAT THE NEAREST
REGIONAL ATTACHE (BUENOS AIRES) IS ALREADY OVERBURDENED
HANDLING ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY, AND URUGUAY. FAS, THEREFORE,
DOES NOT CONCUR IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE AGATT.

3. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THE
AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OTHER POSITIONS YOU PROPOSED
REDUCING. UPON RECEIPT OF THEIR RESPONSE THE DEPARTMENT
WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THEIR VIEWS AND SOLICIT YOUR FINAL
COMMENTS.

4. IN REVIEWING THESE RESPONSES, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR
TO BE ANY OVERWHELMING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF RETAINING
THE POSITIONS IN QUESTION. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO
RECEIVE YOUR FINAL COMMENTS IN LIGHT OF THE AGENCY
REPLIES. VANCE

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NNN

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